

PRODUCTION OF POLYVINYL-ALCOHOLIC GEL FORMED ARTICLES

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Inventor(s): FUJII HIROAKI; others: 01
Applicant(s): KURARAY CO LTD
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Abstract

PURPOSE: To obtain polyvinyl-alcoholic formed articles of a desired shape having high strength and water resistance by bringing a specific polyvinyl alcohol aqueous solution into contact with a liquid containing a boric acid compound to effect forming followed by insolubilization treatment.

CONSTITUTION: (A) A polyvinyl alcohol aqueous solution of 0.3 to 40wt.% concentration having a pH of over 8, preferably 9 to 13 adjusted by adding an alkaline substance, suitably calcium hydroxide is brought into contact with (B) a liquid, preferably an aqueous solution containing 1g/l of a boric acid compound, suitably an inorganic acid of boric acid, to effect forming (for example, the component A is dripped from a cylindrical nozzle to form liquid drops and the drops are brought into contact with the component B), then the polyvinyl alcohol is insolubilized (for example, frozen lower than -5 deg.C, preferably lower than -10 deg.C, kept more than 1, preferably 10 hours, then thawed, and these operations are repeated more than once to give the objective formed polyvinyl alcohol gel, particularly spherical drops of polyvinyl-alcohol gel.

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